

## **Ora Tugwell**

With input from Ora Taylor

Ora Tugwell, daughter of John Robert Tugwell and Martha Jane Moore was born October 4, 1898 in The Walstonburg Community and died April 9, 1982 in Shawsville, VA. She married Sam Morrill Flanagan on January 1, 1922. She and Sam had 2 daughters and a son, Aileen, Ora Lee and James Leland.

Ora grew up in the farming community of Walstonburg, NC. She went through school in Fountain, NC. After marriage she lived near Lang's Crossroads between Farmville and Greenville, NC with her family on a tobacco farm. She was a faithful wife and mother who devoted her life to her family. She loved to cook and was a wonderful one. She was adept at all manner of things it took to raise a family including sewing and making clothes for her children. Some of her cooking specialties were country backbone and sweet potatoes, biscuits, and grated sweet potato pudding although she was accomplished at all the typical southern dishes.

As her daughter, Ora Lee recalls; one of her most famous meals was a rockfish stew. The stew was cooked in a big pot, often a cast iron wash pot, using stripped bass, potatoes, onions and tomatoes in some form. It was one of the best smelling dishes you could ever imagine. She would share the meal with friends and neighbors and many times the adults would play cards after eating. The usual game was called "setback". Probably the young folks were mystified by the game but it called for lots of comments and laughter. The young folks could find plenty of things to do to entertain themselves anyway.

After high school Ora worked at the Bank of Farmville until she was married. With three children spaced about three years apart she had her hands full especially when that was combined with all the things farm mothers undertook. Much of the social life for farm people in a small community like Farmville was with other families in similar situations. Of course that provided a wholesome community to live in and raise a family. Life's pleasures were simple but meaningful. She placed great store on all her family including her family in Walstonburg. She remained close to them as well as her husband's family.

An interesting anecdote was that she had wanted another window in the kitchen to keep the kitchen cooler. One time Sam came home and low and behold there was a hole in the side of the house right where window was to be. By the end of the day, Sam had gone to town, gotten the required parts, and the window was in place and finished. That is one way to make a strong statement.

Ora was active in the Christian Church all her life. She also was active as a hostess for the volunteer blood mobile. One of her most endearing characteristics was being such a good mother-in-law. She was able to make everyone feel at home and to bring out the best in people while letting them be themselves. She was a very kind person and had the knack of making everyone feel a part of the family.